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NSC BRIEFING

3 August 1954

BACKGROUND ON PORTUGUESE POSSESSIONS IN INDIA

1. Portugal holds three territories--Goa, Damao and Diu--all on West Coast of India. All acquired during Portugal's expansion in 16th century. They consist of port towns, plus one large enclave in immediate hinterland of Damao. Enclave is surrounded by Indian territory, and Portuguese are dependent on India for transit rights and communications with it.
2. Total area of three territories, 1,537 sq. miles. Population ^{est.} (~~1940 census~~) 640,000. Goa has by far largest number--about 500,000.
3. Economic significance is practically nil, with possible exception of manganese mines near Goa.
4. Available Portuguese forces believed to consist about 3,000 men, mostly African troops under Portuguese officers--2,000 more en route.

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5. Article 4 of NAT: "The parties will consult together whenever, in opinion of any of them, the territorial integrity, political independence or security of any of the parties is threatened."

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